



Healing Our World

The Compassion *of* Libertarianism

*How to Enrich the Poor,
Protect the Environment,
Deter Crime & Defuse Terrorism*

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Foreword by Congressman RON PAUL, M.D.,
1988 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominee

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In Summary . . .

- As children, we learned that if no one hits first, no fight is possible.
- Therefore, refraining from “first-strike” force, theft, or fraud, is the first step in creating peace.
- The second step is compensating others for any damage that we do.
- These two steps, honoring our neighbor’s choice and righting our wrongs, constitute the Good Neighbor Policy, the practice of nonaggression, or libertarianism.
- Peace and prosperity are only possible when we are Good Neighbors.
- We can abandon the Good Neighbor Policy without even realizing it when directed to do so by an authority figure.
- When we, as individuals, take from our neighbors what they won’t voluntarily give—at gunpoint, if necessary—we call it theft. When majorities take from minorities what they won’t voluntarily give—at gunpoint, if necessary—we call it taxation.
- Perhaps we don’t have peace in the world because we’ve abandoned the Good Neighbor Policy without even realizing it.



In Summary . . .

- Wealth consists of goods and services. Money is only a claim check on existing wealth.
- Using resources in new and more productive ways creates wealth. Since creativity is unbounded, so is wealth.
- Countries that practice the Good Neighbor Policy create more wealth than those that don't.
- The poverty of ancient times was largely due to violations of the Good Neighbor Policy, especially by governments.
- The poor are harmed most by aggression and prosper most under the Good Neighbor Policy.
- The United States is the wealthiest country on earth because it practiced the Good Neighbor Policy to a greater extent and for a longer time than most other nations.
- By studying U.S. history, we can learn how a country can create great wealth and then lose much of it by abandoning the Good Neighbor Policy.



In Summary . . .

- In the marketplace ecosystem, also known as the free market, people with different skills find their job niche, just as different species find their niche in the environment.
- The marketplace is self-regulating and usually functions quite well without our interference.
- Attempts to correct marketplace imperfections with aggression do far more harm than good by destroying the jobs through which wealth is created.
- Immigrants to the United States in the 1800s overcame prejudice by offering employers a greater share of the jointly created wealth. Young Americans sometimes use the same technique to get that all-important first job.
- Almost everyone is able to create some wealth, so everyone can find a starting niche. As expertise improves, so do job opportunities.
- Wage controls intended to help disadvantaged people backfire by destroying their jobs. Instead of low wages, they can end up with no wages at all!
- Because poverty is caused by lack of wages, rather than low wages, wage controls decrease jobs and increase poverty, especially for blacks and other disadvantaged groups.
- The marketplace ecosystem slowly, but surely, dissolves prejudice by rewarding employers who hire workers on the basis of their productivity with higher profits.
- After the Civil War, white landowners tried to pay blacks “slave wages.” Because the marketplace penalized such employers, many paid blacks more than they otherwise would. Prejudice was slowly but surely eroded by this natural process.



In Summary . . .

- Self-employment provides another option for employees who are dissatisfied with their working conditions.
- Businesses that please their customers are rewarded by profit. Those that don't please their customers suffer loss.
- Licensing laws stop entrepreneurs—at gunpoint, if necessary—from providing service to willing customers.
- Many licensing requirements have nothing to do with safety, because they are intended to keep the disadvantaged from competing with established workers.
- The poor have a difficult time climbing the Ladder of Affluence because wage controls keep them from being hired and licensing laws keep them from establishing their own businesses.
- Most people who get a foothold on the Ladder of Affluence are able to climb it. Indeed, many who start on the lowest rung can advance to the top one.
- Licensing laws impoverish all of us because the cost of enforcing them, lobbying for them, and supporting those who are forbidden to create wealth greatly shrinks the Wealth Pie. We usually get less than we otherwise would, even if our piece grew with licensing laws.
- Most poverty today is caused by licensing laws that inhibit the creation of wealth. Getting a business license, for example, takes hours in Hong Kong, weeks in New York City, and years in India. The gap between rich and poor is wider in nations with the most regulation.
- The damage done by licensing laws can be reversed. Every time we retire one regulator, we create about 150 private sector jobs!



In Summary . . .

- Licensing laws designed to protect consumers can actually cause harm. The number of service providers goes down, and prices go up. People either do without the service or try to provide it themselves.
- Consequently, states with stricter licensing laws for electricians have more accidental electrocutions; states with the most requirements for optometrists have more blindness; states with the most restrictive licensing for dentists have poorer oral hygiene.
- Likewise, licensing for medical doctors creates physician shortage and overwork, as well as higher prices.
- Innovation, especially in nutrition and alternative specialties, is compromised both by licensing and by use of taxes for funding research. Our nation's health suffers as a result.
- Certification provides a better way to insure quality while honoring the choice of each consumer (e.g., electrical equipment certification by Underwriters Laboratories [UL]).



In Summary . . .

- If a loved one were dying, we'd never snatch lifesaving drugs from their grasp. Yet, we unwittingly do just that with FDA "consumer protection" regulation.
- The FDA's mandate to approve only drugs that are completely safe and effective can be fulfilled only by approving no drugs at all. Because the FDA is unfairly blamed when drugs affect some people adversely, the agency drags out the approval process.
- Consequently, drug development time and cost has increased greatly since the early 1960s without any improvement in either efficacy or safety. We pay five times as much for drugs as we should!
- The true cost, however, is measured in lives, as tens of thousands of people die waiting for the FDA to approve breakthrough drugs.
- The FDA limits the information that drug companies can share with doctors and consumers. Consequently, as many as 100,000 Americans died needlessly from heart disease each year that aspirin makers couldn't advertise aspirin's role in prevention; about 25,000 children were born with preventable deformities because vitamin sellers weren't permitted to advertise folic acid's protective effects.
- The biggest cost of regulation, however, is the stifling of innovation that could transform a life-threatening disease (e.g., infection) into a mild inconvenience.
- Innovation lowers the cost of health care dramatically. In the 10 years after its introduction, ulcer medicine slashed the cost of treatment over 90%!
- When certification replaces aggressive regulations, prices drop, safety improves, and innovation thrives. More treatments become available, lessening the chances that quackery will prevail.



In Summary . . .

- We create the Pyramid of Power with successive layers of aggression-through-government. Each layer of aggression gives us less choice and higher prices.
- The first layer outlaws some goods and services; the second layer outlaws all but a single service provider to create a monopoly. The third layer of aggression forces us to subsidize the monopoly and the fourth layer forces us to use it.
- Rockefeller gained 90% of the oil refining market with innovations and low prices. The marketplace ecosystem made it impossible for him to raise prices and exploit consumers. Only through aggression of exclusive licensing could he stop some of his strongest competitors.
- Bill Gates, like Rockefeller, gave consumers quality products at low prices. His competitors complained to the U.S. Justice Department instead of wooing their customers back with better service.
- Bell Telephone enjoyed a monopoly for many years because of its patents. When the patents expired, Bell's competitors brought phone service to the masses. When Bell regained its monopoly through exclusive licensing, the rate of phone installations plummeted.
- Deregulation returns control to the consumer. Service providers compete with each other to provide the highest quality, lowest cost service.



In Summary . . .

- Third-layer aggression forces us to pay subsidies, usually to exclusive monopolies created by second-layer aggression.
- Subsidizing these monopolies, usually government services, increases costs, encourages waste, discourages conservation, and destroys the environment.
- Federal and state lands, which cover over 40% of the United States, are maintained through subsidies. The natural process of homesteading is stopped—at gunpoint, if necessary.
- Because the bureaucrats who supervise government lands do not profit by caring for them, special interest groups, such as loggers and ranchers, are allowed to abuse them.
- When loggers and ranchers are allowed to own the forests and ranges, however, they take better care of the land.
- Similarly, when bureaucrats control our parks, they upset the ecological balance as they did in Yellowstone. Some states even subsidized bounties to kill hawks and other predators.
- Private parks, like Sea Lion Caves and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, do a better job of protecting wildlife.
- When Ravena Park was under private ownership, the giant Douglas firs were protected. A few years after the city took over the park, the beautiful trees were all cut down for cordwood.
- Since people protect the environment when they own a piece of it, privatizing our parks would ensure better care. When we end the subsidies that make parks and government monopolies possible, we get better service for lower cost.
- Privatizing government-owned services gives us more for less. Privatizing government-owned lands might even retire the national debt, while protecting our ecological heritage.



In Summary . . .

- One example of fourth-layer aggression is the Federal Reserve, an exclusive, subsidized monopoly on currency issue. We are forced to use the Fed's currency "for all debts, public and private."
- When banks lend, they expand the money supply, causing inflation. When banks slow lending, the creation of money slows too, causing deflation. By manipulating the money supply, banks can control a nation's economy.
- For example, the Second Bank of the United States, a precursor of the Fed, tried to create a depression when President Andrew Jackson refused to renew its charter.
- The Federal Reserve is subsidized invisibly by devaluing the currency through expansion of the money supply. Between 1933 and 2014, this "inflation tax" was more than 95% of all newly created wealth.
- People without property, such as the poor and those on fixed incomes, pay most of the inflation tax. At current rates, the inflation tax on retirees will cost them half of their purchasing power over the next 20 years.
- In essence, the inflation tax redistributes wealth from the poor to the rich.
- The Federal Reserve is supposed to protect us from booms and busts. However, highly regulated banking systems have eight times as many crises as banking systems free from aggression.
- In the past, "free" banks expanded the money supply carefully since they, not the taxpayers, were obligated to make up any shortfalls. Consequently, prices were more stable as money and wealth creation proceeded at approximately the same rate.
- The marketplace is reacting to the inflation tax by creating alternative currencies based on precious metals, digital "bits," or work hours.



In Summary . . .

- The education monopoly is an example of fourth-layer aggression: a subsidized, exclusive monopoly that we are forced to use. Even private and home schools must abide by rules set by the school licensing boards.
- In the early days of the United States, when most education was private and voluntary, Americans were among the most literate nations in the world.
- Modern public schooling, however, has failed our children. Costs are twice that of private schools and test scores are lower. Drugs and violence are more prevalent in public schools as well.
- If schoolchildren rebel when forced into the one-size-fits-all educational mold, they are given potent psychotropic drugs to quiet them. These drugs often have severe side effects, including violent behavior, in children.
- Black and minority children suffer the most in public schools. Consequently, parents will often go to great extremes, such as cutting back on groceries, to give them a private education.
- Private schools are better integrated than public ones, both in the classroom and in the lunch room.
- Public school teachers and members of the U.S. Congress send their children to private schools more frequently than the rest of the American public.
- Public schools are not legally obligated to teach our children. Private institutions, like Sylvan Learning Centers and Hope Academy, however, *guarantee* to teach students up to five times faster than public schools!
- A fully privatized educational system would teach our children better for less in an environment that was safer and more integrated. Indeed, with Internet, educational cable TV, and advertiser-sponsored programs, even children who didn't study could hardly help learning the basics!



In Summary . . .

- Poverty is caused by unemployment, which usually results from minimum wage and licensing laws.
- By trying to alleviate poverty with tax-supported welfare, we tempt the disadvantaged to accept an aid check instead of a pay check.
- Welfare breaks up the family by encouraging multiple illegitimate births and discouraging marriage. By the time young mothers realize that welfare is a dead-end, they are caught in the poverty trap.
- When welfare recipients are required to do community work, more than half get a job and get off the dole. In 1996, welfare reform mandated work; black child poverty fell to the lowest level ever seen just four years later.
- While tax-supported charity doesn't help the truly destitute, private charitable groups have been incredibly effective in helping the homeless, the addicted, the criminal, and the illiterate.
- The most successful private programs accept little or no tax support. Indeed, their existence is often threatened by regulations imposed by bureaucrats. Even Mother Teresa's helpers were put out of business in New York!
- An entire mutual aid network that once provided a social safety net for low- and middle-income Americans, survived both World War I and the Great Depression. Regulations, however, destroyed it.
- The human spirit is so generous that the time and money contributed by Americans exceeds the entire poverty budgets of federal, state, and local governments. Without the aggression-through-government that makes people poor, befriending leadership and charitable donations would be more than sufficient to care for the truly needy.



In Summary . . .

- Freedom from aggression-through-government is the most important determinant of a country's rate of wealth creation.
- Since modern government can only collect the money it spends through taxation or inflation, government programs start with aggression and cause harm.
- Consequently, as government spending increases, wealth creation decreases.
- When Sweden increased government spending from 31% to 66% for its social safety net, wealth creation plummeted from 4.9% annually to a mere 0.6%.
- Slowing wealth creation hurts the poor the most. Consequently, aggression-through-government is the poor's greatest enemy.
- Most poverty in the world today is caused by aggression-through-government. When nations cut back on government spending, they automatically cut back on this aggression.
- The three countries that have slashed government spending in recent years (Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom) increased their wealth creation dramatically.
- Without aggression, we'd create wealth 3 to 18 times faster!
- When we recognize that we live in a win-win world, we no longer need to choose between our welfare and that of others, between what's good for the individual and what's good for society. Instead, we recognize that our mutual welfare rises and falls together.



In Summary . . .

- “Righting our wrongs” is the second part of the Good Neighbor Policy.
- TIT FOR TAT is a well-known social strategy that acts very much like the Good Neighbor Policy. In both computer tournaments and diverse situations of strife, it has proven effective in convincing aggressors to become peaceful and cooperative.
- In addition to our own experience as children when we re-created the peace by righting our wrongs, TIT FOR TAT’s record suggests that letting aggressors experience the harm that they have done is the best way to teach them to be Good Neighbors.
- When aggressors make their victims whole again, they experience the harm they have done to others. Restitution through productive work is the most successful rehabilitation known.
- Restitution also deters crime better than imprisonment. Japan has an extensive program of restitution and is the only industrialized nation in the world that has seen a consistent decrease in crime since World War II.
- Full restitution, which would include all the costs of trial and apprehension, would end the aggression of taxation that currently subsidizes these functions.
- When we used licensing laws and regulations in an attempt to stop individual aggressors, we slashed our wealth creation. When we substitute restitution for these laws, we will deter individual aggressors more effectively and increase wealth creation once again.
- Corporate irresponsibility would lessen if aggressors were required to right their wrongs. Forgiveness could only come from victims, not from an arbitrary limitation of liability by government.



In Summary . . .

- Righting our wrongs is the ideal pollution solution. Restoring the person or property of another is so costly that it acts as an effective deterrent.
- Government officials are usually penalized if they try to protect the environment. In contrast, if they cause great harm, sovereign immunity protects them from personal liability.
- The Love Canal disaster happened because the Niagara Falls school board disturbed buried chemicals after repeated pleas by Hooker Chemical not to do so. When the chemicals caused skin irritation, Hooker was blamed, but the school board was not. Taxpayers had to pick up the bill for relocating residents. Hooker had to clean up the mess that the school board had made.
- When nuclear testing damaged rangeland and more than doubled childhood thyroid cancer in Utah, courts denied compensation to the victims because the U.S. government has sovereign immunity.
- The U.S. military is the greatest polluter in the world, but it rarely cleans up its mess. Sovereign immunity protects it from legal action.
- DDT saved millions of lives by nearly eradicating malaria in the Third World. The DDT ban killed millions of people in developing countries when malaria returned.
- Asbestos removal in schools, as ordered by the EPA, endangered our children by increasing airborne concentrations of this carcinogen for years afterward.
- All polluters, public or private, should compensate their victims. Restitution, by deterring pollution, will contribute greatly to environmental protection.



In Summary . . .

- Although people who rape, steal, and murder are clearly aggressors, people who use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs peacefully in their own homes are not.
- Alcohol Prohibition failed to stop people from drinking. Organized crime thrived and the murder rate increased two and one-half times.
- The War on Drugs kills more than 10 times as many people as the drugs themselves by increasing homicides from turf wars, AIDS from shared needles, and accidental overdose caused by contaminated drug supplies.
- Because our police spend more time arresting pot smokers than thieves, murderers, rapists, and child molesters, crimes of violence increase when drug enforcement does.
- Mandatory minimum sentences for drug-related crimes have forced overcrowded prisons to release violent felons to prey on the innocent.
- The desperately ill are condemned to unnecessary pain and premature death because some drugs with documented medicinal uses are prohibited.
- Marijuana's cousin, industrial hemp, may be the real target in the War on Drugs.
- In Amsterdam and Portugal, where marijuana has been decriminalized, heroin addiction is dropping and pushers have left the schools. Cocaine and marijuana use by Dutch and Portuguese teenagers is only a fraction of U.S. rates.
- Even if everyone in the United States took drugs once they were re-legalized, the death toll would still be less than what we have today from the War on Drugs.



In Summary . . .

- Private police cost half as much as public police, yet deliver up to seven times faster response times. Crime drops as much as 95% because of their preventive procedures.
- Private police have no sovereign immunity, are not funded by taxation, and focus on aggressors. Because they themselves are Good Neighbors, they are less likely than government agents to create tragedies like Waco and Ruby Ridge.
- Guns save 400 times more people through self-defense than they accidentally kill.
- In Orlando, Florida, rape plummeted 87% when women were encouraged to train with firearms, even though the women never fired their guns.
- Homicides dropped 30% and rampage shootings fell 78% when states permitted concealed weapons.
- In Britain, Ireland, and Jamaica, gun crime increased up to 400% when firearms were banned.
- Under U.S. civil asset forfeiture laws, property can be confiscated on suspicion alone.
- American juries have the right to judge the law as well as the guilt or innocence of the defendant. However, judges often tell juries otherwise.
- If police stopped chasing pot smokers and speeders, they could quadruple the time spent apprehending violent criminals.
- Private highways have one-third fewer accidents than the U.S. interstates.
- The poor benefit the most from private justice.



In Summary . . .

- The Good Neighbor Policy, honoring our neighbor's choice and righting our wrongs, creates harmony and abundance in our city, state, and nation.
- Becoming Good Neighbors promotes our own individual health and happiness as well.
- Suspiciousness, hostility, cynicism, and blame—Type A or aggressor behavior—alters our body's biochemistry, predisposing us to cardiovascular disease.
- Similarly, Type C or victim behavior—frustration, helplessness, giving up, and resignation—predispose us to cancer.
- Much of our society is caught in a destructive A/C loop, alternately becoming victims and aggressors through the guns of government.
- Type S or self-actualized people focus on changing themselves rather than others. They are neither victims nor aggressors and reject aggression-through-government. Type S individuals live longer, on average, than Type A or Type C individuals.
- The thoughts that precede aggression estrange us from the rest of humankind, sabotaging the happiness that we hope to gain from our actions.
- Even those who gain money and power through the guns of government will eventually recognize that aggression sabotages their own health and happiness and reject it.
- Because our health and happiness depend on our becoming Good Neighbors, we will abandon aggression one day. Healing our world is virtually inevitable.



In Summary . . .

- Excessive government regulations and licensing laws greatly limit wealth creation, causing widespread poverty and suffering. Some 50–80% of the people in Third World nations create their wealth illegally.
- Legally owning a home in Third World countries is extremely difficult. For example, in Peru, obtaining legal title to land requires 728 steps. Consequently, most houses in poor nations are built without clear or formal title.
- The land and homes of the world's poor are worth almost \$10 trillion, but because they don't have legal title, they cannot access this equity.
- Most U.S. foreign aid is squandered by Third World despots. Rather than helping the poor or building their economies, they use it to increase their own wealth, power, and prestige.
- Because loans from the World Bank are usually wasted, borrowing leaves only crushing debt in Third World Nations.
- High tariffs and import restrictions in developed countries can keep poor nations from becoming self-sufficient.
- Trade barriers designed to protect jobs in developed countries backfire to destroy jobs instead.
- The only poor nations that have grown rich in the past few decades are those that have lowered tariffs and increased their trading volume.
- To become wealthy, poor nations need only follow the example of Hong Kong and become Good Neighbors. By getting rid of stifling taxes and regulations, giving homesteaders clear title, and ending tariffs and import restrictions, they can go from abject poverty to First World affluence in a few short generations.



In Summary . . .

- Communism killed more than 100 million people in the twentieth century, all in the name of compassion.
- Many people view communism as obsolete, even though it is still openly practiced in many countries.
- Communism is simply aggression-through-government taken to its ultimate extreme.
- The communist vision is the whole of humankind sharing like one happy family—at gunpoint, if necessary.
- Because communists use aggression as their means, poverty results. People who can't keep the wealth they create don't create much. Shortages of food and medicine were so common in the Soviet Union that life expectancy there declined while it rose in other nations.
- Communism encourages resentment, hate, and animosity. Psychological development is hindered. The environment is destroyed.
- The Communist Manifesto of 1848 outlines a 10-step plan for converting the developed nations to socialist states. The United States and other Western nations have implemented at least 8 of these 10 planks.
- The real communist threat stems from our belief that aggression serves us. Our military might cannot protect us from ourselves.
- When we recognize that love must precede sharing, we realize that honoring our neighbor's choice is the first step to implementing the ideals of communism without its horrors.



In Summary . . .

- The Communist threat posed by the Soviet Union was a consequence of our domestic aggression (taxation and banking regulations) rippling outward into the world.
- By similar means, we have helped to empower virtually every threat to U.S. national security in the past 50 years, including terrorists Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden.
- U.S. intervention in the Third World often causes a great deal of death and suffering. The result: animosity toward Americans.
- Because of biased reporting, Americans are often unaware of what is done in their name.
- Both Pearl Harbor and the 9/11 attacks were probably provoked by aggressive U.S. foreign policy.
- Because the military-industrial complex profits from war, it encourages conflict. As President Eisenhower warned us, we need to be vigilant.
- If the 9/11 terrorists wanted to destroy our freedoms, we are playing right into their hands with the USA Patriot Act, secret military tribunals, and torture of suspects.
- By ending foreign aid and the drug war, we can deplete the cash flow to would-be dictators and terrorists.
- Trade turns enemies into allies by increasing the wealth of both nations (e.g., Japan). Trade with every nation may be the best deterrent of all!
- Privatizing defense can be an effective, economical, and innovative alternative to a tax-supported military.
- Good Neighbors make few enemies. In the rare instances when defense becomes necessary, their superior wealth-creating abilities give them a strategic advantage over their adversaries.



In Summary . . .

- A world government would resemble the governments of today and thus would most likely be an instrument of aggression.
- The things that we want global government to do are best accomplished by simply becoming Good Neighbors.
- As countries grow in wealth, their birthrate declines. Because the Good Neighbor Policy enhances wealth creation, it both destroys poverty and controls population naturally.
- Private ownership of the world's fauna promotes biodiversity and protection of endangered species on land or in the sea much better than governmental bans on hunting or habitat destruction.
- Global temperature and its measurement are so complex that we can't be sure that warming is occurring or what might cause it. Even if global warming becomes a problem, innovation and/or restitution would reduce the use of harmful products.
- Multiple currencies provide an important check on inflation by central banks. A single, global currency would give the people who control it more power than any ruling elite has ever known.
- World government is more likely to be a forced union than a voluntary one. Consequently, its consummation will more closely approximate rape than love.
- The Good Neighbor Policy is more effective in creating a world without borders than global government is. Indeed, there are no borders without aggression to erect and maintain them.



In Summary . . .

- Although the world seems to be moving away from the Good Neighbor Policy, appearances can be deceiving. In 1750, no one thought nations could survive without monarchs. During the next two centuries, however, much of Europe began dethroning or disempowering their royalty.
- Europe wanted the prosperity of the United States and so voluntarily imitated it. Catalyzing change can sometimes be as easy as setting an example.
- By ending aggression-through-government, we can create a world of universal harmony and abundance. Nothing will reform government as quickly as making elected and appointed officials personally liable for any damage that they do.
- When we are tempted to use taxation or regulation to temporarily relieve suffering caused by aggression, let us remember the devastating impact—long lines and rationing—that subsidies have on health care. Trying to solve the problems caused by aggression with more of it is a cure worse than the disease.
- A number of organizations actively promote the Good Neighbor Policy, usually under the label “libertarian,” derived from the word “liberty,” as in “free from aggression-through-government.”
- You can use the research done by these organizations to increase your understanding of the Good Neighbor Policy or become actively involved in its promotion.
- You are the best judge of how your talents can help create a nonaggressive world. No matter how small you think your contribution is, it most likely will have a major impact. Each link in the chain is vital.
- Please accept my gratitude for helping make our world a better place!